

56. (Amended) The optical information processor according to claim 34, further comprising:

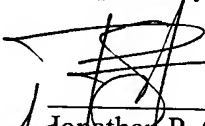
second photodetectors for receiving light separated by the separation element, wherein at least a part of light outside the aperture NA2(T) in the second optical path is led to the second photodetectors.

REMARKS

Applicant submits that the above amendments are fully supported by the original specification and that no new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims are solely made to cancel claims in accordance with a restriction requirement issued in the parent application of this application and not made in view of prior art. Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04558/038003).

Date: 7/10/03

Respectfully submitted,


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Marked-Up Versions of the Amended Claims

50. (Amended) [An optical information processor performing at least either one of information recording and information reproduction with respect to an information recording medium, comprising:

a light source;

an objective lens for focusing light emitted from the light source on the information recording medium;

a separation element for separating light from the information recording medium from an optical path to the light source;

first photodetectors for receiving light separated by the separation element; and] The optical information processor according to claim 18, further comprising:

second photodetectors for receiving light separated by the separation element,

wherein [an aperture in a direction almost orthogonal to a track of data string on the information recording medium is formed so that an aperture NA1(R) in a first optical path from the light source to the information recording medium and an aperture NA2(R) in a second optical path from the information recording medium to the first photodetectors satisfy a relationship $NA1(R) > NA2(R)$, an aperture in a direction almost parallel to the track of data string on the information recording medium is formed so that an aperture NA1(T) in the first optical path and an aperture NA2(T) in the second optical path satisfy a relationship of $NA1(T) = NA2(T)$, and] at least a part of light outside the aperture NA2(R) in the second optical path is led to the second photodetectors.

56. (Amended) [An optical information processor performing at least either one of information recording and information reproduction with respect to an information recording medium, comprising:

a light source;

an objective lens for focusing light emitted from the light source on the information recording medium;

a separation element for separating light from the information recording medium from an optical path to the light source;

first photodetectors for receiving light separated by the separation element;
and] The optical information processor according to claim 34, further comprising:

second photodetectors for receiving light separated by the separation element,

wherein [an aperture in a direction almost parallel to a track of data string on the information recording medium is formed so that an aperture NA1(T) in a first optical path from the light source to the information recording medium and an aperture NA2(T) in a second optical path from the information recording medium to the first photodetectors satisfy a relationship of $NA1(T) > NA2(T)$, and an aperture in a direction almost orthogonal to the track of data string on the information recording medium is formed so that an aperture NA1(R) in the first optical path and an aperture NA2(R) in the second optical path satisfy a relationship of $NA1(R) = NA2(R)$, and] at least a part of light outside the aperture NA2(T) in the second optical path is led to the second photodetectors.